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Message Text

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43
ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-20 EB-11 IO-14 SSO-00 NSCE-00

USIE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

ACDA-19 DRC-01 PC-10 /155 W
---------- 058616
O 280355Z MAY 74
FM AMEMBASSY MANAGUA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4234
INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA CITY
AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE
AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR
URESTE/AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

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E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, PFOR, NU

SUBJECT: POSPONEMENT OF MEETING OF CA CHIEFS OF STATE

1. GENERAL SOMOZA TOLDCHARGE TONIGHT, MAY 27, THAT MAY29
MEETING OF CA CHIEFSOF STATE IS BEING POSTPONED INDEFINITELY.
ACCORDING TO SOMOZA THE PROPOSED SCENARIO FELL APART IN
LAST TWO DAYS AND THAT IS THEREFORE BECAME IMPOSSIBLE TO HOLD THE
MEETING.

2. SOMOZA SAID THAT AS A RESULT OF CAREFUL NEGOTIATIONS DURING LAST
SEVERAL WEEKS A A SCENARIO HAD BEEN AGREED UPON WHICH WHOUD HAVE
ENCOMPASSED THE FOLLOWING:

(A) SIGNATURE OF PROTOCOL BETWEENHONDURAS AND
EL SALVADOR ESTABLISHING A COMMISSION WITH AUTHORITY TO FIX THE
BOUNDARIES BETWEEN THETWO COUNTRIES, EXCEPT FOR FIVE SMALL POCKETS
WHICH WOULD HAVE BEEN LEFT FOR LATER NEGOTIATIONS.
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(B) UPON SIGNATURE OFTHE PROTOCOL, HONDURAS AND
EL SALVADOR WOULD HAVE RE-ESTABLISHED DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS.

(C) HONDURAS WOULD HAVE IMMEDIATELY PERMITTED THE
PASSAGE OF SALVADORAN GOODS IN THIRD COUNTRY TRUCKS.

(D) AS THE WORK OF THE COMMISSION PROGRESSED, HONDURAS
WOULD GRADUALLY HAVE FURTHER RELAXED ITS RESTRICTIONS TO PERMIT THE
PASSAGE OF SALVADORAN TRUCKS, THEN BUSES, THEN PASSENGER
CARS AND FINALLY THE MOVEMENT OF PEOPLES BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES.

3. WHEN SOMOZA FLEW TO EL SALVADOR ON MAY 26 TO CONFIRM THAT
THE MEETING WOULD GO AS PLANNED, THE SALVADORANS HAD CHANGED THEIR
POSITION AND INSISTED THAT THE BORDER COMMISSION MUST HAVE AUTHORITY
TO DELIMIT THE ENTIRE FRONTIER, INCLUDING THE FIVE SMALL POCKITS.
SOMOZA WAS UNABLE TO PERSUADE THE SALVADORANS TO
RETURN TO THE ORIGINAL AGREEMENT (HE CONSIDERS THIS IS DUE TO
AN INHERENTLY UNSTABLE SITUATION WITHIN THE SALVADOR GOVERNMENT).

4. SOMOZA FLEW ON MAY 27 (AFTER CANCELING MOST OF HIS SCHEDULED
ACTIVITIS IN CONNECTION WITH NICARAGUAN ARMED FORCES DAY) TO
INFORM THE HONDURANSOF THE NEW SALVADORAN DAMAND. GENERAL
LOPEZ AND MEMBERS OF THE HONDURANGOVERNMENT STATED FLATLY
THAT THEY COULD NOT ACCEPT THIS LATEST DEMAND AND WOULD THEREFORE
PREFER TO CANCEL OR AT LEAST POSTPONE INDEFINITELY THE MEETING.

5. AT SOMOZA'S INSISTENCE FOREIGN MINISTERS BORGONOVO AND
BATRES FLEW TO MANAGUA IN THE LATE AFTERNOON OF MAY 27 AND AS OF
9 P.M. WERE CLOSETED TOGETHER ATTEMPTING TO DRAFT A COMMUNIQUE
THAT WILL ANNOUNCE THE INDEFINITE POSTPONEMENT OF THE
MEETING IN A MANNER THAT WILL SAVE FACE FOR ALL CONCERNED. WHILE
CHARGE WAS WITH SOMOZA, SOMOZA SPOKE TO PRESIDENT MOLINA TO
INSIST THAT THE TWO FOREIGN MINISTERS CONTINUE WORKING UNTIL
AN ACCEPTABLE COMMUNIQUE HAS BEEN DRAFTED. SOMOZA, WHO SAYS HE
HAS BEEN A "MESSENGER BOY"IN ALL THE NEGOTIATIONS, HAS NO DESIRE
TO ACCEPT ANY RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE POSTPONEMENT OF THE MEETING.

6. SOMOZA WILL CALL ODUBER AND ARANA LATER TONIGHT TO
ADVISE THEM OF THE SITUATION. HE DOES NOT BELIEVE, HOWEVER, THAT
THERE IS ANY CHANCE THAT THE MEETING WILL TAKE PLACE.
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7. SOMOZA FEELS THAT THE WORK POSTPONEMENT IS AN EUPHEMISM
AND THAT IT WILL BE A LONG TIME PERHAPS SEVERAL YEARS, BEFORE THE
TWO COUNTRIES SERIOUSLY NEGOTIATE AGAIN. IN THE MEANTIME HE FEELS
THAT ONE SIDE OR THE OTHER MIGHT TAKE UNILATERAL ACTIONS (SUCH
AS SALVADOR'S THREATENED IMPOSITION OF A TRANSIT TAX ON CA GOODS)
WHICH WILL FURTHER AGGRAVATE THE SITUATION. HE ALSO FEELS AT
THIS MOMENT THAT THE BREAKDOWN OF NEGOTIATIONS WILL HAVE A VERY

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SERIOUS EFFECT ON THE CA COMMON MARKET.

8. SOMOZA SAID THAT HE WOULD TELL CHARGE OF ANY FURTHER
DEVELOPMENTS ON MORNING OF MAY 28.
WARNER.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MEETING AGENDA, CHIEF OF STATE MEETINGS, BOUNDARY CLAIMS, NEGOTIATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 28 MAY 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: boyleja
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974MANAGU02061
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740133-0280
From: MANAGUA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740514/aaaaamft.tel
Line Count: 120
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: boyleja
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 10 SEP 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <10 SEP 2002 by cunninfx>; APPROVED <19 MAR 2003 by boyleja>
Review Markings:

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US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: POSPONEMENT OF MEETING OF CA CHIEFS OF STATE
TAGS: PINT, PFOR, NU, XK, ES, HO
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

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